

REMARKS

Claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 2, 4 and 11 have been amended to employ more idiomatic English. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to incorporate the claims from which they depend. New claims 17-32 have been added to further scope the invention. No new matter has been entered.

The conditional allowance of claims 12 and 13 is noted, with thanks.

Turning to the Examiner's objection to the drawings and the rejection of claims 2, 4 and 11 under 35 USC §112, the Examiner is in error. The features of claims 2 and 4 can be seen in Figure 4. Second half shell 20 is latched to first half shell 18 by retaining lug 26 provided on second half shell 20 engaging into cut-out 24 provided on first half shell 18 (specification, p. 4, lines 18-20). The crimping sleeve is arranged spaced from the latching point in that it is arranged at the end of the first metal sleeve which is opposite the end provided with retaining lug 26 and cut-out 24. This structure reliably connects both half shells 18, 20. At one of their ends, half shells 18, 20 are latched with each other by means of retaining lug 26 engaging into cut-out 24. At the other of their ends, half shells 18, 20 are connected with each other by means of crimping sleeve 48.

Regarding claim 11, Figure 4 shows protrusion 44 on first plastic body 30 which engages into recess 46 in second plastic body 40. This engagement results in the first and second plastic bodies being latched with each other (specification p. 6, lines 3-8).

Turning to the rejection of claims 1, 3, 5-10 and 13-16 under 35 USC §103 as obvious over K.G. Robinson (U.S. Patent No. 2,952,823), the Examiner's rejection is in error. The Examiner argues in cipher 5 of his Action that Robinson teaches a plug-in connector

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comprising first and second receiving chambers. While it is true that the connector taught in Robinson has a first chamber which is present inside the socket portion 14, there is no second chamber. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (Fourth Edition) defines chamber as "an enclosed space or compartment" (copy of definition enclosed). Socket portion 14 is the only element of Robinson that meets this definition. Further, the Examiner argues that element 22 shown in Robinson forms the second metal sleeve. However, claim 1 defines that the second receiving chamber is surrounded by the second metal sleeve. From Robinson, it is obvious that element 22 does not surround any chamber at all. Rather, the interior of element 22 is completely taken up by isolating section 30a (FIG. 3). Finally, the Examiner argues that it was obvious to insert the second metal sleeve into the first half shell rather than inserting the first half shell into the second metal sleeve, as is shown in Robinson. There is no basis for this allegation. Terminal sleeve 22, which the Examiner defines as second metal sleeve, is used for connecting first and second half shells 10a, 10b by threading terminal sleeve 22 onto shell portion 20 (FIG. 3). Accordingly, it is essential for proper operation that terminal sleeve 20 is placed onto first and second half shells. If terminal sleeve 22 was inserted into the first half shell, first and second half shells would not be connected at one of their ends, and the entire connector would disassemble. Thus, Robinson cannot render obvious claim 1, nor any claims dependent therefrom.

In addition, the Examiner makes several assertions regarding Applicant's dependent claims that are in error. Regarding claim 5, the Examiner states that the second metal sleeve will be flanged in an interior of the first half shell. This is an impossible assertion! Again, second metal sleeve 22 shown in Robinson is required for properly connecting the first and

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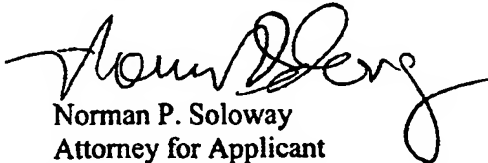
second half shells with each other. It is entirely unclear how second metal sleeve could be flanged in the interior of the first half shell while simultaneously connecting first and second half shells with each other. As for claims 7 and 10, claims 7 and 10 include the feature that the first plastic body extends as far as to an outside of the second metal sleeve through the small passage openings. In other words, the first plastic body is present both in the interior of the second metal sleeve and on the exterior of the second metal sleeve (FIG. 4). Robinson does not show any comparable structure!

Turning to the rejection of claim 14 as obvious over Robinson in view of Stursa (U.S. Patent 4,655,534), claim 14 is patentable for the reasons adduced above as well as for its own features.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

A credit card payment authorization Form PTO-2038 in the amount of \$302.00 (\$86.00 for one additional independent claim; \$216.00 for twelve additional dependent claims). In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,


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